

**Testimony
of
UIL HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Regarding
RAISED SENATE BILL 889
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S
INVESTIGATION OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT
February 26, 2019**

Good morning Senators Needleman, Formica and Fonfara, Representatives Arconti, Ferraro and Allie-Brennan and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL), the parent company for United Illuminating, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company and Connecticut Natural Gas, and wholly-owned subsidiaries of Avangrid, Inc.

I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on Raised Senate Bill 889, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S INVESTIGATION OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS**. We support Senate Bill 889 because it allows the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) to examine the amount of leakage in our gas distribution systems and direct the gas distribution companies in mitigating any leaks.

As the committee is aware, the Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) are heavily regulated by PURA. PURA has put in place an aggressive program to mitigate emissions of methane from our systems through programs to repair and replace our aging gas distribution infrastructure. While we recognize the need to reduce leakage in our system, measuring the leakage in our distributions systems is no simple task. Variations in temperature and pressure, flow variations, timing of measurements, tampering and other measurement challenges make determining the actual leakage itself somewhat challenging.

While we identify and repair gas leaks as required by PURA, the long term solution to reduce leakage in the first place, and replace older infrastructure. Through PURA's oversight of our

Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) we are on a path to for full replacement of aging bare steel and cast iron main over approximately a 15 year period. Any modifications to that program to accelerate the time period for main replacement would need to balance the cost to our customers. The balancing of infrastructure investments and customer costs is correctly placed with PURA.

For those reasons we support SB 889.

Thanks you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

You may also contact AL Carbone, Manager of Avangrid/UIIL State Government Relations at (203) 671-4421